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1. PROBLEM:

To evaluate the current Fitness Reporting System and suggest improvements.

2. FACTO BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

- a. As outlined in Tab A, the Agency has used, during the past twelve years, various kinds of Fitness Reporting systems. Under the leadership of the Career Council, a great deal of coordinated effort and careful consideration have gone into the development, installation and improvement of these exployee evaluation systems.
- b. The current Fitness Report, Form 45, was developed during 1958 by a Task Force of Senior Officials from all parts of the Agency. It was approved by the Council and put into effect on 1 January 1959. This Report is largely a combination of those parts of previous Fitness Reporting Forms which proved most useful and acceptable for employee evaluation purposes in the opinion of the Task Force Members and the Career Council.
- c. The Agency's statutory exemption from the Performance Rating Act makes it permissable for CIA to adopt any type of employee rating system it considers appropriate or, for that matter, to forego the use of a formal employee rating system.

3. DIECUESION:

Report ratings as not meaningful, our major personnel programs are
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3.

geared to the use of such employee evaluations for the management of our personnel. Career Services and Operating Offices consider Fitness Report evaluations in selecting personnel for assignment, for competitive promotion, and for training. Fitness Report ratings assume critical significance in determining nominations of individuals for selection-out and in ranking personnel on relative retention lists covering surplus categories of personnel. Accordingly, it seems obvious that we must strive to achieve a Fitness Report program which will meet our administrative requirements and provide equity to our personnel.

- onerous tasks by most supervisors. Constant follow-up/by management are needed to maintain such reports in reasonably current status.

 The number of delinquent reports generally exceeds 500. Understandably, many of these apply to overseas personnel.
- c. With the foregoing facts in mind, a study of a large group of recent Fitness Reports was made and a review completed of comments and suggestions received volunterily and upon solicitation from operating officials, Career Service representatives, personnel officers and employees. The study reveals that the following parts of our Fitness Report system warrant careful examination to determine ways and means by which improvements can be made:

(1) Rating Standards

The Record, Tab B, indicates such standards are almost totally Approved For Release 2004/9903: CIA RDP78-03578A000700090002-5

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ineffective and that statistically ratings are highly inflated. For example, 9% of GS-12 and GS-13 personnel are evaluated by their superiors as "clearly exceeding the basic requirements" of their positions. Further, more than 50% of GS-12 and GS-13 personnel are evaluated as "superior" or higher in overall performance, despite the fact that these individuals are being compared with their peers, who are presumably at the same grade level and performing similar work. This standard of rating discredits the Fitness Report program and gives terms such as "superior" a hollow meaning. More important, it suggests conclusions that our Agency supervisors are inadequately trained in their supervisory responsibilities, that they lack courage, or that reviewing officials are encouraging unrealistic ratings by failure to assume their our responsibilities.

On the other hand, it must be recognized that the Agency' situation with respect to rating standards is probably no worse then exists in most other Federal agencies and private organizations. Second, some advantages are gained in achieving better production and employee morale through the use of encouraging ratings. These are short-term advantages, however, and lead to more serious problems over the long run in situations where it is necessary to take adverse actions against employees frankly acknowledged to be less than mediocre but whose Fitness Reports faithfully document their performance as most distinguished.

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With respect to other numerical ratings on the current Fitness Report Form, much the same situation applies. As noted in Tab C, about three fourths of the ratings applying to specific duties performed by employees (Section B) are of the "5" (Excellent) level or higher on the 7 degree scale. Similarly, in Section D, Employee Characteristics, three-fourths of the ratings are 4 or better, using a 5 point scale.

In terms of the averages tabulated for the ratings in these sections, the following situation obtains:

Section	Items Rated	Rating Scale	Agency Average		
B	Specific Duties	4 Competent 5 Excellent 6 Superior	5 Excellent		
c	Overall Performance	4 Clearly Exceeds Requirements 5 Superior in Every Emportant Respect	4•3		
Đ	Paployee Character- istics	3 Normal Degree 4 Above Average 5 Outstanding	4.0 Above Average		

The proclivity to rate generously has not been confined to
the current Fitness Report Form or system but has long existed
in this and other Agencies. Several of our Career Service Heads
and operating officials have made and are making genuine and
aggressive efforts to obtain realistic ratings of individuals
under their jurisdiction. Although some successes have been
achieved in parts of the Agency, a unified Agency-wide effort
in this respect has not been undertaken and may be worth con-

sideratica.

Such a progress, however, would involve mass "down-rating" of employees if we are to achieve more realistic dispersion of the ratings using the scales now provided. This progress would undoubtedly pass morals problems on the part of employees adversaly affected, great reluctance on the part of supervisors, and in the long run could well cost more to all concerned than it might be worth.

The logical alternate is the institution of a changed rating structure which would make possible for supervisors to make a fresh start. Obviously, if it is to succeed, such a system would require understanding by all concerned, coursecous and objective action by rating officials, and a most careful system of review and control.

Differences in Numerical Rating Scales, Sections B. C. and D:

In Section B, each individual is rated on the manner of performance of specific major duties on a 7 point scale. In Section C, the individuals overall performance in his current position is rated on a 6 point scale, whereas in Section C, each individual's characteristics are rated on a 5 point scale. This variance in scale was built into the format intentionally by the Task Force.

A principal purpose was to swoid standardization of ratings by making direct comparisons between ratings of Section B, C, and D not magningful. The association of adjectival descriptions

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with the varying number of rating degrees has caused misunderstandings on the part of raters and employees being rated, and has generated a number of official comments and employee suggestions that we adopt a simple uniform rating scale. A consolidation of the three separate rating scales on the basis of the adjective ratings indicates that literally there are 9 distinguishable degrees of rating:

	Section B		Section C		Section D	-					
	Specific Dutles		Overall Performance	<u>ē</u>	Amployee Characteri	erice					
1.	Unastisfectory	(1)	Fails to Neet Requirements	B (I)	Least Possible Degree	(1)					
2.	Berely Adequate	(5)			Limited Degree	(2)					
3•			Neets Most Requirements; I ficient in One or More Important Respects	De- (2)	* * * * * * * *						
4.	Acceptable	(3)									
5.	Competent	(4)	Meets Resic Requirements	(3)	Normal Degree	(3)					
6.			Exceeds Basic Requirements	s(4)	Above Average	(4)					
7.	Excellent	(5)	• • • • • • • • • •								
8.	Superior	(6)	Superior	(5)	* * * * * * * * *						
9•	Outstanding	(7)	Outstanding	(6)	Outstanding	(5)					
		The above	comparison supports the sa	ugestia	ns that our current						
		rating sc	ales be simplified for easi	ter under	retending. A proposal						
		along the	se lines is submitted in pr	eregreph	of this study.						
	(3)	(3) Content of the Fitness Report: Section A - General This section covers basic data identifying employee and his									
		status.	Changes may be required to	indicate	e estegory of employee						
		to replac	e section titled "Career St	teff Ste	tus".						
			Of Armed Hal								

Section B - Evaluation of Performance of Specific Duties Review of comments and suggestions reveals the general agreement that specific major duties warrant individual evaluation on a mamerical-adjective scale. One official proposes that the employee list his specific duties in narrative fashion to be modified by rater, if necessary. Rater would then describe in narrative how well each duty has been performed. In essence, this proposal reflects a combination of Section B with Section E., Marrative Description of Job Performance. This system was used by the Agency from August 1952 until September 1954, Form 37-151, Tab A, but was abandoned partly because such narrative evaluations of specific duties tended to be generalized and did not provide a basis for comparison of performance between individuals. In summary, the continuance of this section in its present form with revision of the rating scale seems desirable.

Section C.- Evaluation of Overall Performance in Current Position
There exists almost unanimous opinion that an overall rating of
performance is essential to the purposes a Fitness Report should
serve in the Agency. Most comments received emphasized that
it should be made clear that each employee is being compared
with others of similar level and type of work in CIA, not with
the population at large. Again, the desirability of changing
the rating scale to conform with other sections of the Fitness
Report was recommended strongly.

Section D - Description of the Employee

The weight of opinion by users of the Reports is that the ratings of specific characteristics is not very meaningful and could well be discontinued. It was pointed out that such characteristics as "Gets Things Done", Resourceful", Writes Effectively", and the like would, if applicable to the job performed be considered in the level of rating accorded specific duties in Section B and in the narrative evaluation of performance, Section E. Accordingly, the purpose of this section might be served equally well if the instructions for Sections B and E would include a statement that

"In the evaluation of the manner of performance of specific duties and overall job performance, the following factors will be considered and specifically commented upon when they are considered of significance in the job:

Productivity
Decisiveness
Ability to Think
Clearly
Records Discipline

Resourcefulness
Security Consciousness
Supervisory Effectiveness
Effectiveness of Written
Expression

Section D would then be eliminated, and the report thereby simplified without losing any vital elements.

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Section E . Marrative Description of Menney of Job Performance:

This narrative section is acknowledged by virtually all users as the most informative and reliable part of the Fitness Report. It's retention is unanimously desired. In fact, several suggestions were that we expend this section by providing additional space and establishing separate sub-sections to assure receipt of narrative comments on items such as strengths, weaknesses, potential, recommended training and future assignments, and suitchility for overseas. It will be noted that this type of approach was used for several years by the Agency, Form 37-151, May 1952, Tab A, and to a lesser degree on succeeding report forms. The approach was abendoned, however, by the Council Task Force in developing the current form. The Task Force reasoned that greater flexibility and more useful narrative information would result if we do not force raters into following a rigid pattern but merely provide guide lines as to coverage of the narrative. Results since then have proved generally satisfactory and the only changes recommended for this section include additional space and some amplification of the instructional guidelines.

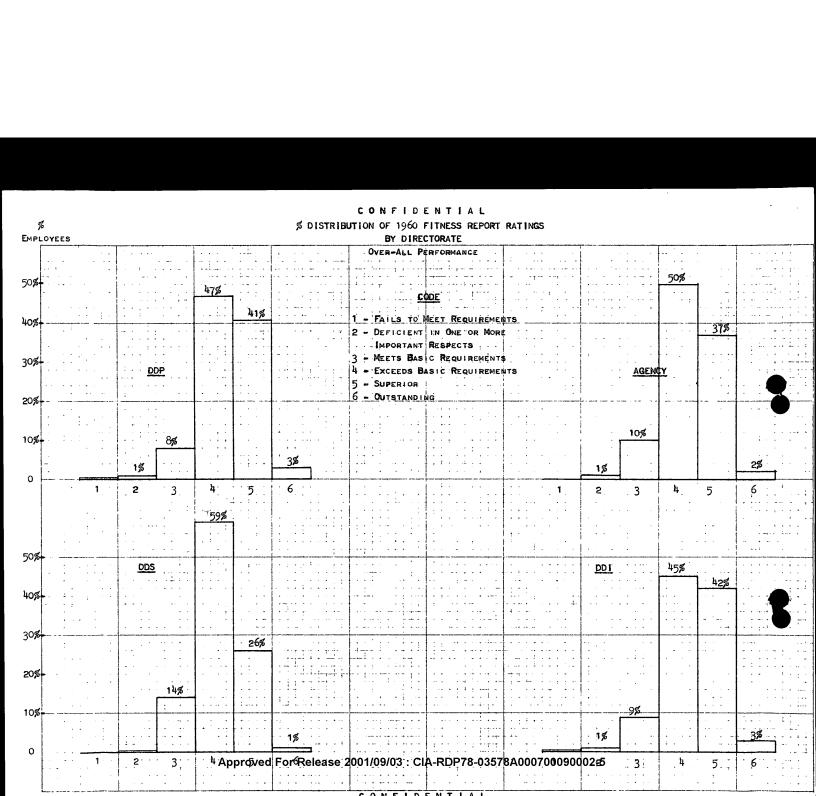
Section F - Certification and Comments:

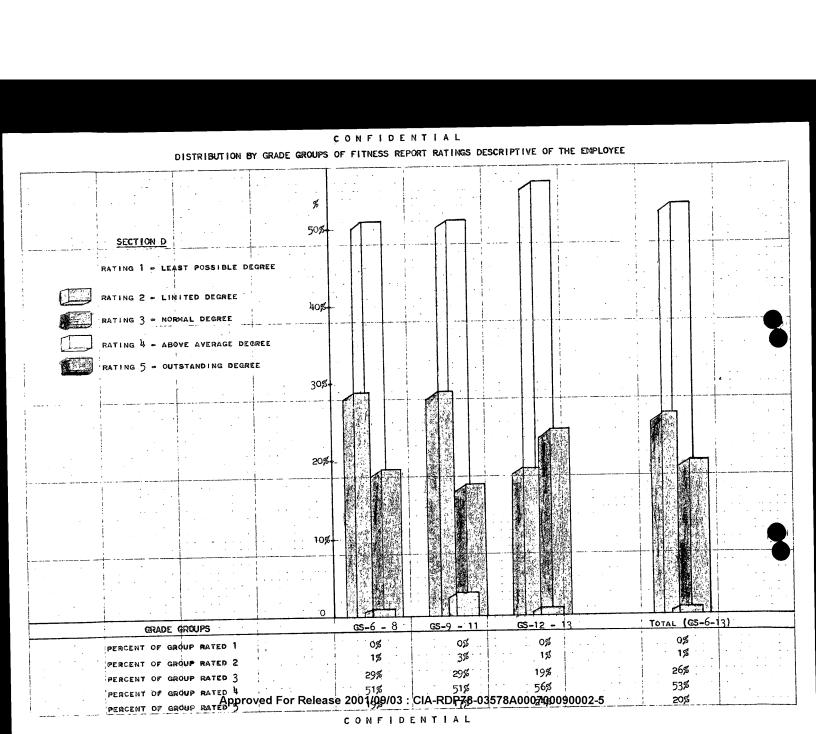
Few comments have been received on this section. A review of information received indicates little purpose is served by the sub-section which provides the supervisor returns the blank form with explanation when a report is not made. This part could well be eliminated to save space and paperwork. The comments of reviewing official sub-section is rarely used.

Consideration should be given to making such comments mendatory. The reviewing official would state why he would give the employee the same Approved For Release 2001/09/03: CIA-RDP78-03578A000700090002-5

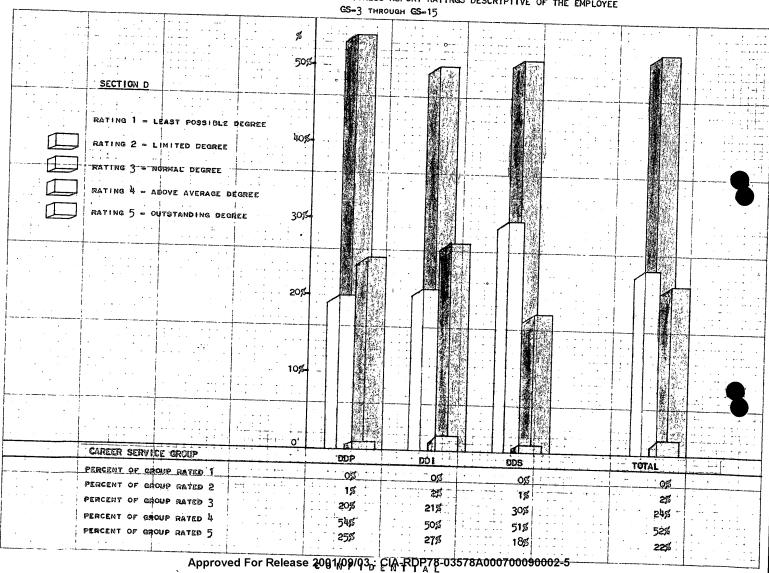
or different evaluation by providing a short marrative performance evaluation. This change could contribute to the improving the realism of the rating program; currently, the role of the reviewing official and his accountability for endorsement of Fitness Report ratings have not been strongly emphasized in many parts of the Agency.

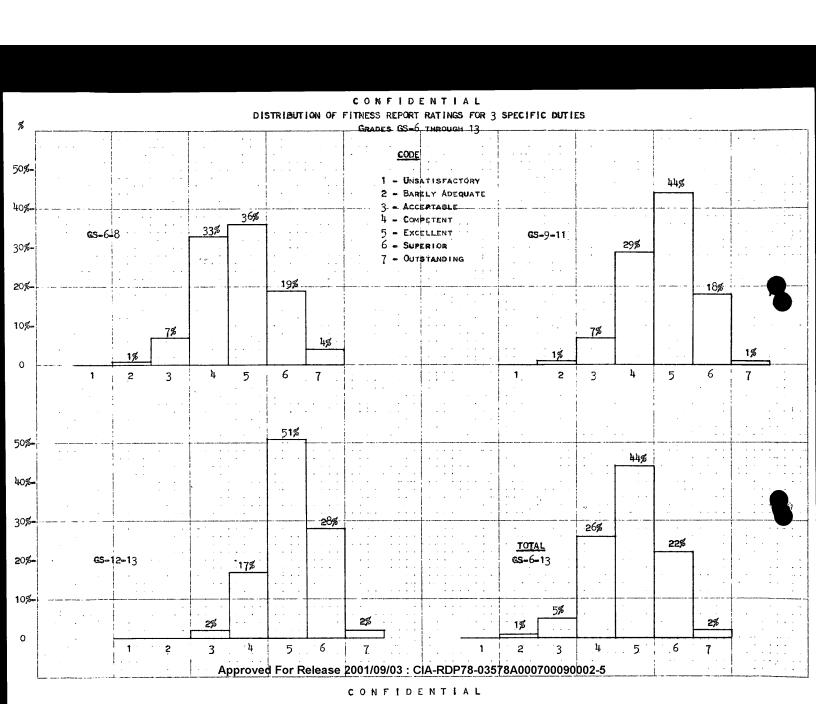
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TABULATION OF FITNESS REPORT RATINGS BY GRADE GS-3 through GS-15

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65-11	20		2	7	13	30	7	1	14	99	90	30
GS-10	9				3	14	10			13	48	29
68-9	35			6	40	hl	18		ā	104	177	44
65- 8	18			3	20	7	19	2	3	47	57	35
GS-7	41		2	12	42	48	13	6	6	125	193	69
68-6	20			1	16	29	13	1		41		30
GS-5	24			3	12	37	17	3	8	48	117	55
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Average Rating 5									L			

1 - Unsatisfactory

2 - Barely Adequate

3 - Acceptable 4 - Competent

5 - Excellent

6 - Superior

7 - Outstanding

1 - Least Possible Degree

2 - Limited Degree

3 - Hornal Degree 4 - Above Average Degree

5 - Outstanding Degree

The material used in this sampling is taken from 1960 fitness reports. The distribution among grades is in approximately the same ratio as the actual Agency employee grade distribution. In Section B the ratings apply only to the first three specific duties regardless of the number of duties rated. In Section D all ratings describing the characteristics of the employee were tabulated -- usually ten. unless the characteristics were not applicable or not observed.

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TABULATION FITNESS REPORT RATINGS BY CAREED VICE GS-3 THROUGH GS-15

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1 - UNBATISFACTORY

2 - BARELY ADEQUATE

3 - ACCEPTABLE

4 - COMPETENT

5 - EXCELLENT

6 - SUPERIOR

7 - OUTSTANDING

1 - LEAST POSSIBLE DEGREE

2 - LIMITED DEGREE

3 - NORMAL DEGREE

4 - ABOVE AVERAGE DEGREE

5 - OUTSTANDING DEGREE

THE MATERIAL USED IN THIS SAMPLING IS TAKEN FROM 1960 FITNESS REPORTS. THE DISTRIBUTION AMONG CAREER SERVICES IN IN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME RATIO AS THE ACTUAL AGENCY CAREER SERVICE EMPLOYEE DISTRIBUTION. IN SECTION B THE RATINGS APPLY ONLY TO THE FIRST THREE SPECIFIC DUTIES REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF DUTIES RATED. IN SECTION D ALL RATINGS DESCRIBING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EMPLOYEE WERE TABULATED—USUALLY TEN, UNLESS THE CHARACTERISTICS WERE NOT APPLICABLE OR NOT OBSERVED.

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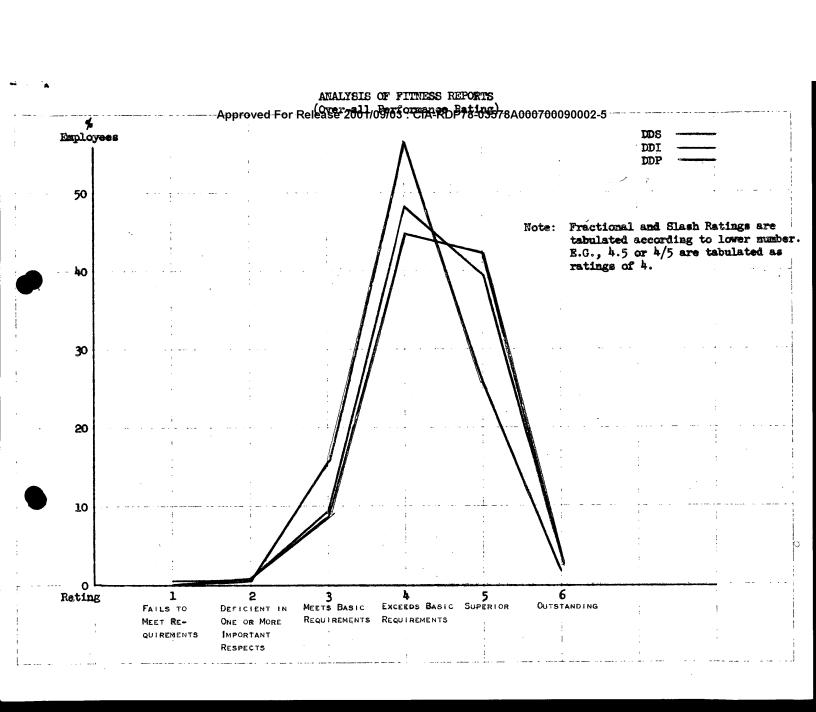
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SE	CTION B	EVALUAT	ION OF	PERFOR	MAN	CE OF SPE	CIFIC	DUTI	ES					
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SEC	CTION C	EVALUATION OF	OVER	ALL PERF	ORA	AANCE IN O	CURR	FNT P	OSITI	UN				
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	CTION F	CERTIFICATION AND COMM	AENTS
1.		BY EMPLOYEE	
	/ cer	rtify that I have seen Sections A, B, C, D) and E of this Report.
DAT	E	SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE	
2.			
	THS EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN	BY SUPERVISOR	
ÜNDI	THS EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN ER MY SUPERVISION	IF THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN TO E	MPLOYEE, GIVE EXPLANATION
		IF REPORT IS NOT BEING MADE AT THIS TIME	E. GIVE REASON.
T I	EMPLOYEE UNDER MY SUPERV	VISION LESS THAN 90 DAYS	REPORT MADE WITHIN LAST 90 DAYS
	OTHER (Specify):		
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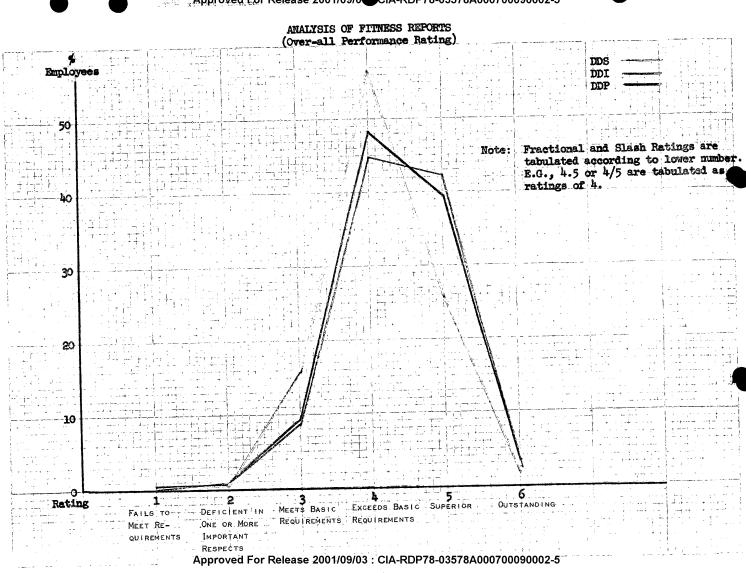


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